

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 311304 TOSEC 340035

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JASON MORRIS COLUMN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR MONDAY, DEC. 27, HEADED WEST BANK ARABS: ALL EYES ON GENEVA TALKS."
 2. "I SENT MY SON TO FIGHT THE ISRAELIS, NOT TO HELP KAMAL JUMBLATT BECOME PREMIER OF LEBANON."
 3. (MR. JUMBLATT IS THE DRUZE CHIEFTAIN WHO LED THE LEFTISTS IN THE LEBANESE FIGHTING.)
 4. THE DEJECTED PALESTINIAN-ARAB FATHER'S LAMENT WAS QUOTED BY JAMIL HAMMAD, A PROMINENT JOURNALIST ON THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN, TO PROVE HIS COUNTRYMEN'S WIDESPREAD DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION'S (PLO) ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR.
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5. MR. HAMMAD, FORMER EDITOR OF THE MILITANT LEFT-WING ARABIC DAILY AL-FAJR, PUBLISHED IN THE FORMER JORDANIAN SECTOR OF JERUSALEM, ATTRIBUTED THE RELATIVELY TAME ANTI-ISRAELI RIOTS THAT RECENTLY ERUPTED ON THE WEST BANK TO THIS KIND OF CRITICISM OF PLO POLICIES.

6. "THE RIOTS CAME AT A TIME OF POLITICAL REASSESSMENT," MR HAMMAD SAID, IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN WHY A CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE IN PROTEST AGAINST EXTENSION OF ISRAEL'S VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT) TO THE WEST BANK WAS ONLY PARTIALLY EFFECTIVE.

7. HE CONTENDED THAT THE ARABS WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY RULE FOR NEARLY A DECADE ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE THAN ON AN ADDITIONAL 8 PERCENT TO BE PAID FOR GOODS AND SERVICES.

8. DELEGATION PROPOSED. ONE SCHOOL OF LOCAL PALESTINIAN THOUGHT FAVORS THE SYRIAN IDEA OF A SINGLE COMBINED ARAB DELEGATION TO INCLUDE PLO REPRESENTATIVES, THEREBY SKIRTING ISRAEL'S OBJECTIONS TO A SEPARATE PLO DELEGATION.

9. ANOTHER PREFERS CO-OPTION OF PROMINENT PALESTINIAN ARABS FROM THE WEST BANK TO SERVE AS PART OF JORDAN'S MISSION TO GENEVA. THE WEST BANK WAS UNDER JORDANIAN RULE FROM 1948 TO 1967.

10. THE POLITICALLY ALERT EX-EDITOR DETECTS A PREFERENCE IN THE OCCUPIED ZONE FOR THE SINGLE ARAB DELEGATION SCHEME, PROVIDED IT INCLUDES WEST BANKERS ON ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM.

11. BEYOND THIS SHORT-TERM FORMULA, BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GENEVA PARLEY MAY RECONVENE IN MARCH, THERE UNCLASSIFIED

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IS A DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD--ASSUMING THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS WOULD BE BASED ON REMNANTS OF PRE-1948 PALESTINE.

12. ONE HEARS WEST BANK POLITICIANS ASKING: WHAT KIND OF A STATE WOULD THAT BE? AND (AS IF IT WERE BLASPHEMY): WHAT DOES (PLO CHIEF) YASSER ARAFAT REALLY HAVE TO OFFER US?

13. THE SO-CALLED REJECTION FRONT--IRAQ, LIBYA, AND OTHERS--WHICH DEMANDS ALL OF PALESTINE FOR THE PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING THE TERRAIN ALLOCATED TO AND ANNEXED BY ISRAEL, APPARENTLY DOES NOT HAVE MUCH OF A FOLLOWING ON THE WEST BANK.

14. "IT'S EASY TO TALK TOUGH WHEN YOU ARE IN BAGHDAD (IRAQ) OR BENGHAZI (LIBYA)," MR. HAMMAD SAID.

15. HE BELIEVES THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF WEST BANKERS
HAVE ACCEPTED THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL AS AN IMMUTABLE

FACT AND THAT "95 PERCENT" HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO LIV-
ING AND WORKING WITH ISRAELIS.

16. THIS EVALUATION WAS REFLECTED IN A DIFFERENT SENSE BY
ISRAEL'S FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER, MOSHE DAYAN.

17. DISCUSSING ISRAEL'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE PALESTINIAN
ARABS WHO CAME UNDER ITS CONTROL IN THE SIX-DAY WAR OF
JUNE, 1967, MR. DAYAN TOLD A VISITING GROUP FROM THE PRO-
ISRAEL U.S. ORGANIZATION, AMERICAN PROFESSORS FOR PEACE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST (APPME), THAT "ARAB-ISRAELI CO-
EXISTENCE" IS THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PAST DECADE.

18. MR. DAYAN SAID IT WAS REMARKABLE THAT THE DAILY CON-
TACT, INVOLVING TENS OF THOUSAND OF WEST BANK AND GAZA
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STRIP ARABS WHO COMMUTE TO JOBS IN ANTE-BELLUM ISRAEL, HAS
NEVER RESULTED IN PERSON-TO-PERSON VIOLENCE. HE TOLD
THE APPME GROUP THIS WAS NOT TRUE OF ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS
UNDER THE BRITISH MANDATE FROM 1920 TO 1948. (END TEXT)

ROBINSON

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